

been outwardly disobedient. However, if I formally submit to the governing authorities, I cannot deceive them with false actions. And so if I am forced to obey outwardly, but in my heart I am not obeying, I don't think it is right. I teach our church people these kinds of thing.

But just as it is necessary for people to cooperate together in every day life, freedom is also necessary. Freedom entails many things. Among them included the freedom of education, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble, freedom to publish. These four things are extremely necessary. These freedoms which guide and direct our life's actions are essential. If one considers the administration of the Governor General after the Annexation Treaty between Korea and Japan, one sees that he has completely put a stop to these kinds of freedoms. How stifled we feel! At the time of Annexation I read an editorial in an Imperial newspaper that if Korea is joined to Japan, then Japanese people and Korean people will enjoy the same freedom; they will be treated the same. In the final analysis, however, after Annexation you have stopped the people from breathing. You prohibited them from demonstrating. In many ways you have oppressed and restricted us. For these reasons complaints have arisen, and this kind of plan [Independence Movement] was only waiting for an opportunity. I was never the kind of person qualified to do that kind of thing on my own. But I must say that I was living under restrictions that were limitless.

 Lee Yong-Nak, "An Account of the March First Incident",
 pp. 201-203

Testimonies of Faith in Korea
 (Geneva: World Alliance of Reformed Churches, ca. 1936).

The Character of the Korean Church

 From 1891 to 1893, the Rev. Samuel A. Moffett while stationed in Pyongyang itinerated in South and North Pyongan provinces and a part of Hwanghae province. After a mission station was established in Pyongyang, Mr. Moffett is credited with founding some 1,000 churches. His mission organization and method was to do "all that was necessary for realizing the way of the Cross in Korea". The principles he followed for spreading the Gospel are found in this sermon.

Rev. Samuel A. Moffett

Col. 1:20 Through Christ God reconciled all things to himself whether on earth or in heaven making peace by the blood of the cross.

Col. 2:8 See to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition...and not according to Christ.

When I came to Korea, before I began to preach the gospel, I prayed and made a decision at Hwangju. I decided to preach only the way of the cross in this land, to preach the gospel of salvation whether I should live or die. The next year I came to Pyongyang where there were at first no Christians. One day I met a Buddhist scholar and he talked about Christianity. He felt very sad when I said that while for some people it made no difference if one was a Christian or a Buddhist, for me I believe in Jesus alone.

The following year (43 years ago) I went to Euiju. I met

a young man and we climbed a mountain together. I asked him to believe in Jesus as I handed him a new testament and he decided to become a believer. He was none other than the Rev. Han Sok Jin. Later we decided to evangelize with the determination of Paul through the 13 provinces. When we returned to Pyongyang, we established a church. We both believed that if we proclaimed God's word, a church was sure to arise. Later with the Rev. Ki Il we traveled and evangelized in Sonchun and the first believer was Mr. Kim Chong Sam.

We had the same firmness as Paul. Paul preached no other gospel. "Those who preach another gospel," he said, "will be cursed." So I myself resolved to preach only the cross of Christ. Anything else would not be the true gospel. Recently, within the church one sometimes hears that the church must change and be reformed. People will not listen if we evangelize in the old ways. The old gospel is not relevant to the new age. We must preach a new gospel for a new world. If we compare their brains with Paul, theirs are much smaller. In Paul's day there was other good news he could have preached but he absolutely refused to do that. Despite his knowledge, wisdom, and talents, and the greatness of Roman power, he refused to preach any other gospel for fear of the curse which would follow.

If you read Paul's letters or his advice to Timothy, Paul strongly urges preaching nothing but Christ. Throughout his 50 years in the Roman empire he achieved outstanding results. These days people may say that Moffett is no salvation in the new gospel. The church is made complete through the same old gospel which Paul preached and we must be very careful about a new gospel. Let us keep on preaching the old gospel, it alone brings forgiveness of sins. If we are thinking of changing the gospel we must remember Paul who refused to do such a thing. There are those today who want to create a new theology and a new gospel and we must be wary of their efforts.

No matter whether the missionaries die, leave the country or are reduced in number, my Korean church brothers, let us proclaim the same gospel as we have been proclaiming for the past 40 years, the same gospel as the Rev. Han Sok Jin and I proclaimed throughout the 13 provinces, and the Rev. Il Sun Ji proclaimed in Pyongyang and Mr. Yang Jon Paek in Sochun.

We all refused to preach any other gospel. Let us continue to proclaim this gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as Paul urged Timothy, so I urge you younger ministers today, as a representative of the missionaries and senior pastors, to preach the same gospel as that of the retired missionaries and pastors. This gospel is not our own, it has been proclaimed through the ages. It is sacred, it builds strong churches. Let us proclaim the gospel which saves people through the way of the cross.

Brothers, retired missionaries and pastors have preached this gospel through 40 years. It is God's word. Those who preach another gospel will be cursed. So I strongly urge you whenever you have the opportunity to speak do not preach another gospel.

 Historical Records sub-committee of the Korean church Centennial Celebrations' Preparatory Committee, " Korean Church centennial Memorial - Let there be light !- sermons", PCK-General Assembly, 1985, pp. 43-45